


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8, in the specification as follows:

— A particularly ~~desiderable~~ desirable additional characteristic of optical couplers is wavelength tunability, so that the dropped wavelength may be changed, in order to increase the flexibility of networks. The goal of a tuneable coupler is therefore to select one channel (or several channels) in a given incoming input optical signal and transmitting all other channels through the filter, said channel being changeable. —

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 19, in the specification as follows:

— Silica on its own may be thermo-optically tuned. However its thermo-optic coefficient dn/dT is of the order of $10^{-5}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a change of temperature of $100.^{\circ}\text{C}$ will typically shift the filter wavelength by less than 1 nm. This may restrict the applications where the ~~desiderable~~ desirable tuning range is of several nm. —

 Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 13 ~~14~~, in the specification as follows:

— Example 5

A coupler designed to work in the erbium C-band ($\lambda_{\min} = 1530 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\max} = 1565 \text{ nm}$) is considered. The two waveguides are vertically stacked and have a square core. In particular the input lower waveguide 1 has core dimensions $4 \mu\text{m} \times 4 \mu\text{m}$ (SiO_2 doped with Ge) and effective index $n_{1c} = 1.447$, while the output waveguide has core